

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR

25 May 1988

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1016 Ames Bldg.

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Attached is another speaking engagement
(16 June). Do you want to get involved
or shall I handle directly with the
Naval War College?

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PRESIDENT OF THE NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
Newport, Rhode Island
02841-5010

88-2233X

DDI Rep

11 MAY 1988

Dear Mr. Gates,

I appreciate very much your willingness to participate in the annual Current Strategy Forum hosted by the Naval War College and sponsored by the Secretary of the Navy, 14-16 June 1988. As has been customary, the Secretary of the Navy will deliver the keynote address.

As the forum theme, we intend to focus on current developments in Soviet politics and external policies, the likely American influence on these developments, and the possible U.S. foreign policy and strategic responses to future Soviet behavior. The title for the forum will be "Sources of Soviet Conduct and the American Response: A Retrospective and a Perspective." The program will divide into three general topics:

- a. An evaluation of contemporary developments in Soviet society and the elements of change and continuity in Soviet foreign policy and military strategy.
- b. An examination of the possible impact of U.S. foreign and arms control policies and the U.S. military posture and maritime strategy on Soviet evaluations and behavior.
- c. A consideration of the challenges and opportunities that Soviet policies present to U.S. strategy and naval roles in the coming decade.

Critical problems facing the Soviet Union and recent changes in its leadership, as well as important U.S.-Soviet arms talks and agreements, suggest the aptness of the proposed forum focus. Most important, it is worth considering the implications of these developments for the naval services.

For the general plan of the program, we will have the following topics and speakers:

Tuesday, 14 June 1983

Welcome

and Address: Rear Admiral Ronald J. Kurth, U.S. Navy
President, Naval War College

"Prospects for Change in the Soviet System: Personal Reflections"

Address: Professor Alvin Z. Rubinstein
The University of Pennsylvania faculty

"Continuities and Change in Soviet Foreign Policy and Military Strategy"

Classroom Seminars and Organizational Meetings

Lunch

Keynote Address: The Honorable William L. Ball III
Secretary of the Navy

"Sources of Soviet Conduct and the American Response"
A statement of the principal theme of the forum and of continuing relevance of U.S. naval power as an instrument of U.S. Policy in responding to changes and continuities in Soviet Policy.

Classroom Seminars

Secretary of the Navy Reception

Wednesday, 15 June 1987

Address: Admiral Carlisle A. Trost, U.S. Navy
Chief of Naval Operations

"Soviet Policy in the 1990's: Challenges for the Navy"

Classroom Seminars

Lunch

Address: Dr. Melvin Goodman
Senior Soviet Specialist
National War College
National Defense University

"U.S. Policy and Strategy as Determinants of Soviet Behavior: The Soviet Military Posture and Arms Control Policies"

Classroom Seminars

Thursday, 16 June 1988

Address: Mr. Colin S. Gray
President
National Institute for Public Policy

"U.S. Policy and Strategy as Determinants of Soviet Behavior: The U.S. Maritime Strategy and the Soviet Response"

Address: The Honorable Robert Gates
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

"The Gorbachev Era: Implications for U.S. Strategy"

Closing Remarks and Farewell: President
Naval War College

The forum will conclude by 12 noon.

We would like you to bring to bear your experiences and reflections on the general topic "The Gorbachev Era: Implications for U.S. Strategy" and define the details of your remarks as you think appropriate and as you have discussed with Dr. Robert Wood, Dean of the Center for Naval Warfare Studies.

I welcome your participation. As you can see, we have scheduled your lecture for Thursday, 16 June. We would invite you, however, to attend as much of the forum as your schedule allows. Please send a copy of your biography and your picture to Commander Ronald Wassel, U.S. Navy, Director of Special Events, at your earliest convenience. If you have any questions, please contact either Commander Wassel at 401/841-2271 or Dr. Wood at 401/841-2270.

Sincerely,



RONALD J. KURTH
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy

The Honorable Robert Gates
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Langley, VA 20505